

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



Cover design ©Liturgical Publications Inc. Photographer, Sheryl Kasper, bigstockphoto.com

Our Lady of Peace Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021



My dear friends,

The themes of the Gospel of Luke

On this Third Sunday of Advent, our readings bid us to rejoice, to turn to God for the fulfillment of our needs, and to discover that it is only in God that our souls will find rest. Our guide for this relatively new liturgical year (Year C in the Lectionary) is the author of the third Gospel, Luke. I wanted to reflect on the significant themes and nuances of the life of Christ that are highlighted

by Luke.

First, it is interesting to note that Luke highlights the role of **women** in the story of salvation. For example, while the Gospel of Matthew focuses primarily on the role of Joseph in the infancy narrative, Luke concentrates on the role of Mary. It is in Luke that we find the account of the Annunciation in which the Angel Gabriel asks Mary to be the mother of the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38), which is followed by the story of Mary's visitation to her older cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56). It is Elizabeth who speaks the familiar words we find in the Hail Mary: "Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb" (1:42).

Second, Luke focuses a great deal of attention on the **poor**. While Matthew contains the narrative about the Magi coming from the East to find the newborn King of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12), in Luke the message of salvation is made known to those near the bottom of society, shepherds, who are brought "tidings of great joy to be shared *by all the people*" (Cfr. Luke 2:8-20). Also, Luke's version of the Beatitudes is strikingly different from that in Matthew, with a greater emphasis on those who are physically and materially poor: "Blest are you poor; the reign of God is yours. Blest are you who hunger; you shall be filled. Blest are you who are weeping; you shall laugh. Blest shall you be when men hate you, when they ostracize you and insult you and proscribe your name as evil because of the Son of Man" (Luke 6:20-23).

Third, Luke emphasizes the role of the **Holy Spirit** as the orchestrator of the great events that are described in the third Gospel. For example, when Jesus is brought to the temple one week after his birth, one of the memorable characters introduced is the elderly Simeon. Luke writes, "There lived in Jerusalem at that time a certain man named Simeon. He was just and pious, and awaited the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not experience death until he had seen the Anointed of the Lord. He came to the temple now, inspired by the Spirit..." (Cfr. Luke 2:25-35). A couple of chapters later, we find the Lucan version of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Here's how the story begins: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, then returned from the Jordan and was conducted by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil" (Luke 4:1-2).

Fourth, we find in the Gospel of Luke a great emphasis on the **pardoning of sinners**. For example, there is the story of the Penitent Woman: "There was a certain Pharisee who invited Jesus to dine with him. Jesus went to the Pharisee's home and reclined to eat. A woman known in the town to be a sinner learned that he was dining in the Pharisee's home. She brought in a vase of perfumed oil and stood behind him at his feet, weeping so that her tears fell upon her feet. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissing them and perfuming them with the oil." After the Pharisee complains about her improper presence, Jesus teaches that her many sins are forgiven "because of her great love" (Cfr. Luke 7:36-50). Another example of the very public forgiveness of a person considered a public sinner is that of the tax collector Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), which ends with Jesus' pronouncement that "the Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost."

Fifth, Luke's gospel is full of the **joy** that is brought by the Messiah Jesus. After Jesus cures a paralyzed man, the reaction of the crowd is reported by Luke. "At once the man stood erect before them. He picked up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God. At this they were all seized with astonishment. Full of awe, they gave praise to God, saying, 'We have seen incredible things today!'" (Luke 5:25-26). At the end of Jesus listing of the Beatitudes in Luke, when he speaks of the poor being ostracized and insulted, he concludes, "On the day they do so, rejoice and exult, for your reward shall be great in heaven. Thus it was that their fathers treated the prophets" (Luke 6:23).

This Third Sunday of Advent, with the lighting of the pink candle on the Advent Wreath, is all about **joy**! The Latin name for this Sunday was *Gaudete*, the plural command: Everybody, rejoice! We find the theme in our first reading: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has removed the judgment against you..." (Zephaniah 3:14-18). The Responsorial Psalm has the refrain, "Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." And in the second reading, Paul advises the Christians of Philippi, "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4-7).

No matter what tries to bring us down, either in our personal lives or in the world at large, our Scripture bids us to find joy in the salvation that is ours—a joy that only God can give and that no one can steal away.



Saturday, December 11-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *John & Eva Crowley*
by Tami O'Malley

Sunday, December 12

8:00A *Joe & Marie Bucci*
by the Bucci family

10:00A *Jim Viens* 5th anniversary
by his family

Saturday, December 18-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Robert Jablonski*
by his wife & family

Sunday, December 19

8:00A *Sr. Irene Socquet, SSA*
by her family

10:00A *Hap & Rose Dunican*
by their daughters

DAILY MASS

Monday, December 13

8:00A *Souls in Purgatory*
by John Caloon

Tuesday, December 14

8:00A *Walter Kostanski, Jr.* in honor of his birthday
by Virginia & family

Wednesday, December 15

8:00A *Artie & Annie Cotton*
by the Bucci family

Thursday, December 16

8:00A *Stanley Choleva* 5th anniversary
Julianne "Babe" Sak 22nd anniversary
by their family

Friday, December 17—Holy Communion Service



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM at Montague Catholic Social Ministries is in need of snacks for the kids. The school day is long and snacks are appreciated.

RCIA for anyone interested in learning about Catholicism will meet Sunday, **December 12 & 19** at 9:00A in the rectory. Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.



WOMEN'S GROUP will meet Tuesday, **December 14** at 6:00P in the church hall. Members are asked to bring gifts for the homeless shelter. Gifts must be wrapped and marked with the size for a manor women. They are in need of socks, underwear, t-shirts, and personal hygiene items. Bring some goodies to share!



Classes will meet Sunday, **December 12** but will not meet Sunday, **December 19, 26 and January 2**. Our Christmas celebration for children and their families will be Saturday, **December 18** at 10:30A. We will be entertained by Ed Popielarczyk, a magician who will make everyone laugh!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Friday, **December 24**
Children's Mass **4:00P**
Mass at "Midnight" **9:00P**

Christmas Day

Saturday, **December 25**
Mass **10:00A**

Sunday, **December 26**

Mass **8:00A**
Mass **10:00A**

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve

Friday, **December 31**
Mass **4:00P**

New Year's Day

Saturday, **January 1, 2022**
Mass **10:00A**

EPIPHANY

Saturday, **January 1**
Mass **4:00P**

Sunday, **January 2**
Mass **8:00A**
Mass **10:00A**

Our Lady's Window

December 9

Marleen Barrett
by her family

December 11

Louise (Ball) Mroz
by Mitch Jr. & Betty

December 18

Ruth Arnold
by her daughters

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of **December 5**

Regular \$4,167.00

On-line \$959.00

We appreciate the continued support of your parish!



CARS • SUV's
& TRUCKS

You get a good deal every
day at Dillon Chevrolet.

DILLON

54 Main Street, Greenfield
773-3678
www.dillonchevrolet.com

Our Lady of Peace



"With Love and Prayers
for our Parish"

Gilmore & Farrell

Insurance Agency, Inc.

525 Bernardston Road
Greenfield, MA 01301

413.773.3686

www.gilmoreandfarrell.com



Timothy Farrell
President

Cell: 413.433.7170

tfarrell@gilmoreandfarrell.com



McCarty
FUNERAL HOME

John C. Davis, Owner/Director
Greenfield • Turners Falls

(413) 774-4808

www.mccartyfuneralhomes.com

**Farren
Care Center**

340 Montague City Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-774-3111



Trinity Health
Senior Communities

trinityhealthseniorcommunities.org/farren-care-center



Snow and Sons
Landscaping

A complete line of quality
services for your home
or business

(413) 774-2604

info@snowandsons.com

www.snowandsons.com



FUEL OIL
KEROSENE
PROPANE
WOOD PELLETS
GAS & DIESEL
PLUMBING
HEATING & COOLING
SALES & SERVICE

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL

1.800.628.1900 | sandri.com

400 CHAPMAN ST, GREENFIELD, MA

**Kostanski
FUNERAL HOME**

TURNERS FALLS • 863-2447
GREENFIELD • 773-9515

A FAMILY BUSINESS SERVING THE
AREA FOR OVER 70 YEARS

www.kostanskifuneralhome.com



Home Care
Cleaning Services
Yard Care

*A Variety of Services for
Those Who Need Them Most*

4 Bowles St. Greenfield, MA 01301

Tel: 844-211-4790 ~ FAX: 802-662-2174

Email: info@gacslc.com

BETE

PERFORMANCE THROUGH ENGINEERING

**Fire Protection &
Suppression Nozzles**

SINCE 1950

413-772-0846

www.bete.com | Greenfield

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Bill Ames** to place an ad today!
bames@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6424

**ADT-Monitored
Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



Authorized
Provider

SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

Our Lady of Peace, Turners Falls, MA 04-0036

